

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 /023 W
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R 142135Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO JECSTATE WASHDC 8088

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1897

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP; XK; ES

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: SITCA TOURISM PROJECT

REF: STATE 110472 NOTAL

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

1. SITCA SECRETARY GENERAL ING. JORGE ORLANDO CALDERON IS NOW IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA DISCUSSING, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, CENTRAL AMERICAN TOURISM ROUTE. HIS DEPUTY, LIC. RICARDO CARIAS CONFIRMS EXISTENCE OF PROJECT AND PROPOSED IDB FINANCING. ACCORDING TO CARIAS, INITIAL PHASE WILL BE A REGIONAL STUDY OF THE PROJECT'S POTENTIAL AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$200,000. CARIAS DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT LOCAL PARTNER WILL BE REQUIRED.

2. SITCA WAS LOCATED IN MANAGUA PREVIOUSLY, BUT WITH NAMING OF CALDERON AS SECRETARY GENERAL, OFFICE HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SAN SALVADOR. FIRMS INTERESTED IN PROJECT MAY CONTACT SITCA AT FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

ING. JORGE ORLANDO CALDERON

EDIFICIO SAN JORGE 4 PISO

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ENTRE 11 AVENIDA NORTE Y CALLE ARCE

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

3. ACCORDING TO CARIAS, THERE IS SOME RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AMERICAN TOURISM ROUTE AND PROPOSED RUTA MAYA. LATTER WOULD DRAW ON U.S. AUTO BOUND TOURISM FROM NORTHEAST VIA FLORIDA AND A FERRY LINK TO YUCATAN, MEXICO. TOURISTS WOULD THEN TRAVEL A ROUTE FROM YUCATAN TO QUINTANA ROO, BELICE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, CHIAPAS, CAMPECHE, YUCATAN OR IN REVERSE ORDER. THERE WOULD BE SPINOFF TO THE REST OF CA AND PANAMA. RUTA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS IN MEXICO, MERIDA, GUATEMALA, SAN JOSE, AND PANAMA AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ARE IN AGREEMENT ON IDEA. BLOCKING PROJECT IS A BASIC ARGUMENT BETWEEN CA GOVERNMENTS AND GOM CONCERNING FACILITATION OF VEHICLE TRAFFIC THROUGH MEXICO. CA GOVERNMENTS WANT GOM TO ELIMINATE OR SIMPLIFY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL. (THIS MAY BE A CASE OF THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, BUT CA GOVERNMENTS SUPPOSEDLY ARE AWARE OF THEIR OWN PROBLEM SITUATIONS). CA TOURISM ROUTE WOULD BE BASICALLY FED BY AIR TRAVELERS BUT RUTA MAYA WOULD SUPPLEMENT THIS FLOW.

4. INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE MAY BE PASSED TO SOME OR OTHER INTERESTED FIRMS, BUT COMMENTS CONCERNING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE RESERVED.
CAMPBELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, TRADE PROMOTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANSAS01897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-1007
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750553/aaaabvvg.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 110472
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: SITCA TOURISM PROJECT
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, XK, ES, SITCA, (CALDERON, JORGE ORLANDO)
To: COM S
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006